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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 10/625,546

Confirmation No.: 8197

In re Application of:

Yutaka HIROSE et al.

Group Art Unit: 2811

Filed: July 24, 2003

Examiner: Nitin Parekh

For: CONTACT FORMATION METHOD  
AND SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

PLEASE ACCEPT THIS AS  
AUTHORIZATION TO DEBIT  
OR CREDIT FEES TO  
DEP. ACCT. 16-0331  
PARKHURST & WENDEL

In response to the Office Action mailed June 3, 2004, applicants hereby provisionally elect, with traverse, to prosecute the claims of Group II (claims 1-3) in this application.

However, applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement since the subject matter of all of claims 1-4 is sufficiently related that a thorough and complete search for the subject matter of the elected claims should encompass a thorough and complete search for the subject matter of the non-elected claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and

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examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 which states that "[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits." It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to applicants and improper duplicative examination by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Respectfully submitted,

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June 28, 2004  
Date

CAW/mhs

Attorney Docket No.: YMOR:294

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